

# The Advocate

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## FIFTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.

Opening of the Session Attended With More Than Usual Interest.

WASHINGTON, December 2.—The American Congress is again in session. Promptly at noon to-day the Senate and House were called to order in their respective chambers amid the scenes of animation and excitement marking the opening of a Congress. By 10:30, an hour and a half before the time of meeting, the public galleries in both houses were filled and an eager crowd overflowed in the outer corridors. Many ladies were in the throng, but there was a noticeable lack of the color and fair weather costumes which usually gives a touch of brightness to the somber chambers.

The nominees of Saturday night's Republican caucus were elected by the House.

The United States Senate was called to order at noon to-day by Vice President Stevenson. All the galleries, public and private, except that reserved for the diplomatic corps, were filled to overflowing by 11 o'clock and the outer corridors were crowded with those unable to gain admission. The Senators began to gather early in the day, exchanging greetings and renewing acquaintances.

On receiving a message stating that the President's annual message would not be submitted until Wednesday, the Senate adjourned at 1:30.

In an interview to-day Senator Peffer said that the Populists will vote as a unit on all party questions. With regard to the reorganization of the Senate they will not decide on their policy until the matter is presented by the Republicans. In currency questions the Populists will take no steps until the President's recommendations on the retirement of the greenbacks is presented. In the taxation and revenue measures the program of the Populists in the House will be not to present any measures, but to propose amendments.

On foreign questions the Populists will stand for the consonance for government on the Western Hemisphere and while not advocating an aggressive policy of interference will insist on the maintenance of the Monroe doctrine. They will express sympathy for Cuba, and in regard to the Hawaiian question will decide what stand they will take on the subject in the Senate. Senator Peffer said that personally he favored a protectorate rather than annexation.

The Populists in Congress have sent a circular letter to all Democratic and Republican members who have been

known to favor free coinage, to meet with them in conference on the currency question.

### AN UNHOLY COMBINE.

WASHINGTON, December 2.—On Saturday night the Republican members of the House caucused and nominated Thomas B. Reed for Speaker; Alexander McDowell, of Pennsylvania, for Clerk; Benjamin Russell, of Missouri, for Sergeant-at-arms; William J. Glenn, of New York, for Doorkeeper; Joseph McElroy, of Ohio, for Postmaster; and H. N. Condon, of Michigan, for Chaplain.

The Democrats re-nominated Mr. Crisp for Speaker.

The action of the Republicans leaves a very bitter feeling among Western members, the outcome of which can not now be more than conjectured. It is asserted that the combine which has carried everything before it embraces Messrs. Platt, Quay and Reed, and is denounced as an "unholy alliance," which had for ulterior purposes the control of the votes of New York and Pennsylvania delegates to the Republican national convention in the interest of Mr. Reed, and the movement for Governor Morton was only a play in the game of political chess, likely, however, to be checkmated by the West and South.

The McKinley men are very much rattled over the events of to-night, although they scored a substantial victory over the Allison men by the election of Gen. Grosvener, of Ohio, as temporary chairman over Gen. Henderson, of Iowa. Some claim that the combine is committed against McKinley to the very core, and that he has been practically driven out of the race, but his friends do not concede this, although they are not enthusiastic by any means. Just where Harrison comes in is an unknown quantity, and that makes him dangerous as an adversary in this game of President making.

The Allison contingent are not making any complaints, apparently resting satisfied with the accepted fact that he leads as the second choice of all the contestants. The Republicans are acting upon the theory that there is small chance of the election being thrown into the House by the failure of their candidate to receive the majority of the electoral college, but should that event occur, the present House has such a large majority on the unit vote of States, that the Republican nominee could be chosen without difficulty. On this hypothesis the Quay-Platt men are pushing things, determined to have their own way without regard to the

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## PROSECUTING THE TRUSTS.

One State Has Decided to Try to Discover Which is Supreme, State or Trust.

WACO, Tex., December 1.—The indictments against John D. Rockefeller and his associates of the Standard Oil Company, in which they are charged with violating the Texas anti-trust law, will be called for trial to-morrow in Judge Sam R. Scott's court. The capias issued against Rockefeller and the members of the Standard Oil Company have been returned unserved by Sheriff Backer, because the Governors of the States in which they reside refused to allow them to be removed.

The indictment includes the names of the Texas district agents of the Waters-Pierce Oil Company, and those agents have all been arrested and put under bond. They are here ready for trial in the morning. Assistant Attorney General Brown is here to prosecute for the State. It looks at this time as if the trial will take place as to the Texas district agents of the Waters-Pierce company. The agents in the indictments arrived to-day. The attorneys for the State and the defendants' attorneys say they are ready for trial. It is understood that the first fight will be by the State to show that the Waters-Pierce Oil Company can be prosecuted for offenses alleged to have been committed by the Standard Oil Company.

### Cripple Creek Booming.

COLORADO SPRINGS, Col., December 1.—The activity in Cripple Creek gold mining stocks in the three exchanges here during November was a record breaker for the West. More than 50,000,000 shares were sold at prices ranging from \$2.50 to 1/4 cent a share, the total cash valuation exceeding \$2,000,000. This, too, with a like stir in exchanges at Cripple Creek, Denver and Pueblo. The streets in the business center are crowded day and night, and everybody is talking stock. Quotations will hereafter be wired to Chicago and New York exchanges. Eastern speculators are buying heavily; London and Paris are also well represented. A marked feature has been the advance in the price of cheap stocks.

### Voluntarily Gives Up His Seat.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 1.—Representative Lawrence McGann, of Chicago, who held a seat in the Fifty-second and Fifty-third Congresses, and was the Chairman of the Committee on Labor in the last Congress, will furnish to the House the unusual spectacle of a member making a voluntary relinquishment of the seat to which he holds the certificate. As soon as he is

able to secure recognition from the Speaker, Mr. McGann will make a statement to the House to the effect that he thinks his Republican opponent, Hugh R. Belknap, is entitled to the seat, and that he (McGann) waives all claims thereto. This step will make it possible for the Committee on Elections, as soon as it is organized, to report in favor of seating Mr. Belknap, and will relieve that gentleman of the necessity of making a contest before the committee. Mr. Belknap, who will succeed Mr. McGann, is a son of W. W. Belknap, who was Secretary of War under President Grant.

### Senator Hill's Lectures Don't Pay.

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., December 1.—Senator David B. Hill's lecture tour in the Northwest has proved a failure, and came to an abrupt end to-day, when the Senator closed his business arrangements with his manager, canceled all future engagements and returned to New York. The reason assigned for this action is that he contracted a severe cold while at Duluth, making him so hoarse that further public speaking at present is out of the question.

The fact is, however, that the audience which gathered to listen to him at Milwaukee, Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth were so meagre that the financial returns were insufficient to pay expenses, and Senator Hill refused to talk for nothing. He lectured last night at Duluth, and came to Minneapolis this morning. He was booked for ten lectures altogether. The arrangements for the lecture tour were made by Minneapolis parties. Before leaving the city to night, Senator Hill declined to be interviewed, and was evidently much disgusted with the reception he met with while on this tour.

### Railroad Accident Figures.

HARRISBURG, Pa., December 1.—The returns to the Department of Internal Affairs of the steam railroads operating in Pennsylvania show that 1,538 persons were killed and 10,605 injured by them during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1895. Of those killed twenty-nine were passengers, 447 employees and 1,107 other persons. The passengers injured numbered 612; employees, 8,346; other persons, 1,649. From the returns of all roads to the department it is found that to every 432 employees there is one killed, and to every twenty-three, one injured. Among passengers the ratio is one killed out of 4,325,718, and one injured out of 207,202.

Utah will send one Mormon and one Gentile to the United States Senate.